

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Removal of Pomaks and Communists in Bulgaria

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1. The Pomak families arrested on 25 July by the Bulgarian police were taken to Dobrudja near the Bulgaro-Rumanian border. They were not placed in concentration camps but in various villages. They were not, however, permitted to communicate with their relatives.
2. Late in August the police went to the villages from which these Pomaks had been taken and sealed their houses. The police made a new census of all the Pomaks' household effects, farm implements, et cetera and transferred all the large livestock (cows, horses, and mules) to the places to which the Pomak families had been removed, since their stay in these places was regarded as definitely decided. Such small animals as sheep and goats were distributed by the police among the various herdsmen of the villages from which the Pomaks had been removed.
3. This year's crops were gathered through drafted labor and were turned over in toto to the local cooperatives. It is said that real property of the Pomaks will be nationalized, and that the State will give the Pomaks similar properties in the places to which they have been removed.
4. The same thing happened to the families of Bulgarian (i.e. non-Pomak) anti-Communists who were arrested on 15 July in Chereclare and on 4 May in 'rda.
5. The Pomaks in Bulgaria discussing this measure assert that it is designed to remove from the territory bordering Greece and probably also Turkey those persons who are unsympathetic to the present Bulgarian regime. Such families are being transferred to a region which is "safer" for the authorities.
6. Similar mass arrests and removals have recently been observed in several other localities.
7. In the region of the mines of Madan, about 20-30 guerrillas appeared at the end of August 1948. Some of them were armed and some were not. The bank included both Bulgarians and Pomaks.

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